



## **Protecting North Carolina's Children**

### **How Children's Organizations Can Protect Kids in their Care from Sexual Abuse**

It is estimated that one in 10 children will be sexually abused before they turn 18. Leaders of organizations that serve children – religious groups, summer camps, athletic organizations, leadership programs, etc. – should do all they can to ensure this abuse doesn't occur on their watch.

That is why Attorney General Josh Stein has worked with experts to develop guidelines for organizations that serve children. The guidance includes policies and procedures to protect children from child sexual abuse. That document can be found [here](#) and an overview is below.

#### **Best Practices:**

##### **Create and implement policies and plans**

###### **✓ Prevent and respond to abuse.**

Organizations should develop a written policy that defines acceptable behavior, screening, and training for employees. It should also include daily procedures focused on protecting children.

##### **Provide survivor-centered response**

###### **✓ Train employees to handle disclosure and support investigations.**

Organizations should train any representative of the organization – paid or volunteer – in how to handle a child victim's disclosure of abuse. Training should prepare employees and volunteers on how to effectively handle the initial disclosure, how to report it inside and outside of the organization, and how to support investigations.

##### **Learn about community resources**

###### **✓ Make strong partnerships.**

There is a wealth of expertise in preventing and addressing child sexual abuse in communities across North Carolina. Learning about those resources before an incident occurs will help inform policies and make reporting easier if an allegation ever occurs.